

California Biodiversity Council
December 8, 1994
South Coast Bioregional Workshop

Objective of workshop:

- Establish a clear understanding of what's going on in bioregion;
- Expose difficult questions
- Explore ways in which Council can assist to advance ideas

Key points of presentations:

Michael Beck: Local jurisdictions are implementing federal and state laws and want recognition for that.

Brian Loew, Riverside County: Costs of implementing conservation plan to date has been 29 million dollars of local money. Developers pay \$1950/acre for any development as a mitigation fee. Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (public agency set up by Joint Powers Agreement) spent 23 million dollars to acquire lands. Seven million management endowment to be set up. Projected cost of plan is 54 million dollars. Tremendous difference has been the involvement and contributions of the Federal agencies, specifically BLM.

Economic crisis resulting from Stephens Kangaroo Rat issue. In response, developed a short term habitat conservation plan (HCP) to allow for limited take. The largest HCP being implemented by local government with greatest amount of private land. Plan represents a consensus of the community.

Issues: Ability to trade BLM lands to acquire lands elsewhere; how to move from a single species plan to a multi-species regional plan.

Tim Neely, Orange County: Current financial situation result of unfunded federal mandates that burden the local governments. 3 million spent by county and private interests on the plan design. Implementation costs have not been financed yet--looking to endowment set up Transportation Corridors Agency. Open space reserves function like state and national parks.

Meryl Balko, San Diego County: Developed maps of vegetation communities and associated habitat values to guide the designation of the open space preserve. Since 1991, six million dollars has been spent in the planning phases--implementation will come at a much higher cost. 1.5 billion projected to be the cost for acquisition of lands. Policy committee identified 5 principles for their financing and acquisitions strategy (get copy of overhead). Key points: use public lands to greatest extent possible; Continue collection of mitigation fees from private sources. Federal and state funding essential (state bonds, trusts, etc.). Potential sources of funds identified from each category: federal, state, local, and private (also get copy of this overhead).